

**Regular Council Meeting
May 16, 2011**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting of May 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council members Elizabeth Brannon, Ray Jackson, Earl King, and Charlie Simmons. Council member Harold Taunton was absent. Staff present: City Attorney Clay Adkinson, City Planner Latilda Henninger, Parks Director Shane Supple and City Clerk Robin Haynes.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Past Minutes

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve the minutes of the regular scheduled council meeting of April 28, 2011, as presented, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

1. Planning Issues

No items were presented.

2. Legal Matters

No items were presented.

3. Fire Department Report

No report was given.

4. Parks Department Report

No report was given.

5. Engineer's Report

Charles Peters, representing Peters Municipal Associates/Praestare Engineering, presented a short update on all outstanding projects, including:

- Well House #3 – mildew forming around bottom of the building where water splashing, quote for approximately \$2.50/sf to repair, installation of pea gravel recommended to prevent splash
- Well House #2 (**AGENDA ITEM #2 OLD BUSINESS**) – Apparent low bidder Brannon Construction, no bid bond provided, but was provided letter of credit from Peoples National Bank

- Two bids received – Brannon Construction \$82,550.00
Lewis & Associates Construction \$87,586.00 (\$4,686.00 deduct noted on OUTSIDE of sealed bid)

Attorney Adkinson stated that with the construction price being less than \$100,000, a local contractor that has worked with the City before and the letter of credit being issued by a local bank, currently doing business with the City, that he felt the Council was in a good position to waive the bid bond if so desired.

Councilman Jackson motioned to award the contract to Brannon Construction for \$82,550.00 and waive the bid bond requirement, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

- Shipyard Road lift station relocation – plans being reviewed by Robert Fawcett
- WWTP SCADA system – parts replacement almost completed, staff has noticed an improved systems stability, and his electrical engineer Bob will be down after the equipment installation to fine-tune the system
- WWTP upgrades – Contract documents have been returned, pre-construction meeting will be held within the week
- US Hwy 331 utility line relocation – meetings continue with EC Driver and FDOT, preliminary layout meeting to be held later in the week
- Lift station improvements – electrical panels have been received and Gilbert Pump should be out later in the week to begin installation

Cliff Knauer, representing Preble-Rish, informed Council that five bids had been received on the North Bay Phase II expansion (**AGENDA ITEM #1 OLD BUSINESS**):

- Utility Solutions Group, LLC \$1,921,000.00
- I-C Contractors, Inc. \$2,077,217.05
- Marshall Brothers Industrial, Inc. \$2,080,013.00
- Gulf Coast Utility Contractors \$2,157,886.50
- Morgan Contracting, Inc. \$2,668,322.20

Discussion between Mr. Knauer and Council included the following items:

- Suggestion to discuss with low bidder the removal of sections of line that were only servicing a couple of sign ups
- Number of customers certified to Rural Development that would have to be serviced at the end of the project
- Possibly offering a discount rate for residents, in particular those difficult areas, to encourage connection while construction was happening
- Cost of project within Rural Development and engineering construction budgets
- Any funds not needed would be de-obligated, but would be taken off the back end of the loan, would not reduce payments
- Loan payments and debt service figured on length of time of Eglin survey easement, not typical loan of 40 years

Attorney Adkinson recommended accepting the bids and awarding low bidder of project subject to Rural Development's approval. Councilman Simmons motioned to approve accepting the bids as received and awarding the project to the apparent low bidder, Utility Solutions Group, LLC for \$1,921,000.00, subject to Rural Development approval, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no additional public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

IV. Old Business

1. North Bay Phase II bid tabulations – ITEM ADDRESSED UNDER ENGINEERING

2. Well 2 control building construction – ITEM ADDRESSED UNDER ENGINEERING

Attorney Adkinson wanted to clarify the Council's earlier decision regarding the bid bond and to determine whether or not Council wanted to require the contractor to provide a payment and performance bond. Mr. Adkinson stated that he felt the City's exposure was limited with the project costing less than \$100,000.00 and that they could further stipulate no payment received until the end of the project. Councilman Simmons motioned to approve waiving the performance and payment bond requirement by the contractor, and to authorize two draws for payment, one at 50% of project completion, the balance due at completion, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

3. Wagon Wheel well upgrades – engineering negotiations

Cliff Knauer presented a draft engineering proposal for the Wagon Wheel well upgrades and line extension. Attorney Adkinson has reviewed the proposal and has a few revisions to the narrative to make, nothing that would affect the contract provisions. Mr. Knauer and Council briefly discussed the proposed amount of \$76,000.00, which would include design engineering and project inspection. Councilman Jackson motioned to approve the proposal, subject to legal revisions, for Preble-Rish for the cost of \$76,000.00, Councilman King seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

V. New Business

1. Pay all bills in order

Councilman Jackson motioned to pay all bills in orders, Councilwoman Brannon seconded. There was no public or council discussion, the motion carried 4:0.

VI. Council Business Not On Agenda

None was presented.

VII. Public Business Not On Agenda

Eleanor Turner, representing the Freeport Town Planters requested that the Blount House not be rented to the public until they could make some repairs and the City Council decided what they

were going to do regarding rentals of facilities. After short discussion, Clerk Haynes was directed to bring a new rental policy and agreement back for the City Council review at the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President